

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

March 4, 2005

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that **JOHN ANTHONY LOTT**, age 35, of Sparta, Illinois, was sentenced today in Federal District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois, for the felony offense of Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1). **LOTT** was sentenced to a term of 120 months' incarceration without parole, a fine of \$500.00, a \$100.00 special assessment, and upon completion of his imprisonment, a three-year period of supervised release. **LOTT** was found guilty following a jury trial on March 10, 2004.

On June 28, 2003, Sparta, Illinois Police Officers saw **LOTT** who had an outstanding warrant, driving and pulled him over, the car was searched incident to the arrest. A semi-automatic pistol was found under the driver's seat.

The investigation in this case was a cooperative effort with the Randolph County State's Attorney's office, the Sparta, Illinois Police Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, pursuant to these agencies' participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, and is directed at removing guns and drugs from our communities. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Richard H. Lloyd.